

Fact Sheet No. 6

Ross Complex Superfund Site

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION

M A Y 1 9 9 1

Detailed Studies Begin

This fact sheet describes what you will see happening at the Ross Complex through the fall of 1991.

Between May and October, we will analyze, in detail, the hazardous waste identified at the Ross complex. Experts will start two studies at the site - the Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study (RI/FS). You can read how these studies fit in the whole process in Fact Sheet No. 2.

A work plan for both of these studies has been reviewed and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington Department of Ecology. The work plan is 1,100 pages long and specifies activities scheduled at the Ross Complex. It can be reviewed at Ross or at the Vancouver Public Library.

In addition, BPA will explore possible environmental impacts and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Remedial Investigation (RI)

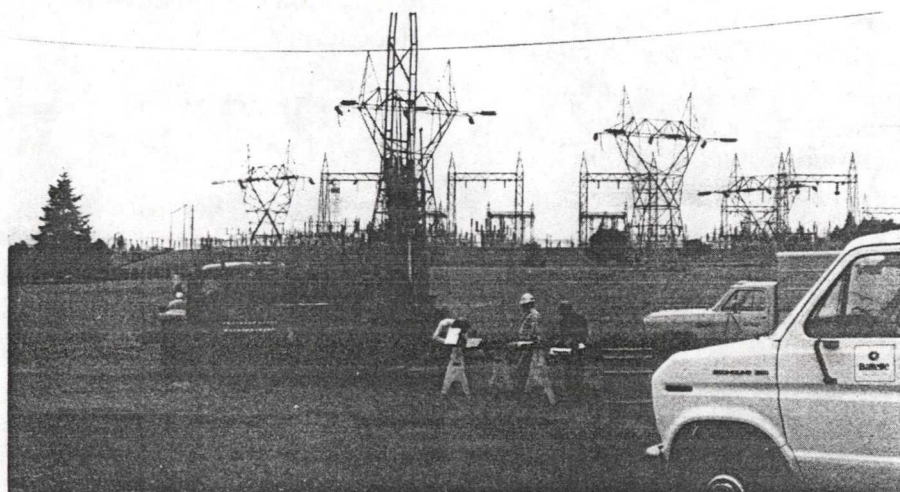
This investigation determines the nature and extent of past chemical use and waste disposal at the site. It also identifies any adverse effects on the environment and around the site. Experts will collect samples from

wastes, soils, water and air. These samples will be analyzed for a wide variety of chemicals including metals and organic compounds such as polychlorinated biphenyls, solvents, pesticides and herbicides. Based on findings, a risk assessment will be performed. This assessment will determine current or future risk to the environment and to the health of

tiveness of clean-up methods vary, depending on specific sites and conditions.

Environmental Impact Statement

An Environmental Impact Statement will be written the same time as the feasibility study. It will evaluate the effect of the various clean-up methods



Experts, such as this soil scientist taking a soil sample at the Fog Chamber, will be working at Ross Complex to analyze the extent of hazardous wastes at the site.

site workers and area residents. A plan will be developed to minimize any risks that are found.

Feasibility Study (FS)

This study evaluates various clean-up methods and identifies the best methods to mitigate problems. Many new and effective technologies are available for environmental clean-up. However, the effec-

on the environment. This document will help select clean-up methods to be used at the site. The EIS will consider effects on water, animals, plants, people and property values.

Fencing to Restrict Access

As studies progress, fences will be installed to protect the public from ongoing work or exposure to (possible) contaminants.

A permanent fence will be built south of the Ellen Davis Trail and encompassing the fog test and apprentice training areas.

Current Site Work

The first phase of on-site work is now beginning. Several types of samples will be collected, screened in the field, and sent to chemical laboratories for analysis. Sampling will include:

Geophysical Surveying

Geophysical sensing techniques identify areas of disturbed soils such as former refuse disposal pits and trenches and will detect any buried metal objects. This survey determines the extent of buried debris in the fog chamber dump and Cold Creek fill areas.

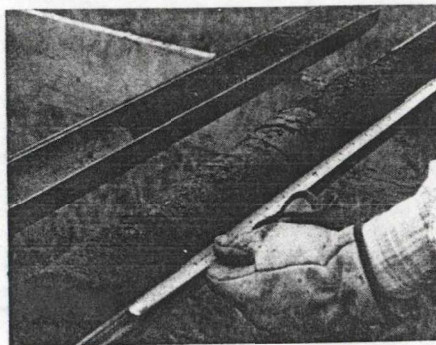
Soil Gas Monitoring

Specially designed portable field screening instruments will locate volatile organic contaminants in the soil. Probes will be inserted into areas where spills or leaks of organic compounds may have occurred. Organic compounds in vapors from the soil will be measured. The data obtained from this field screening will help BPA identify areas of contamination.

Surface Soil Sampling

Samples of surface soils will be taken in areas where hazardous wastes were handled and spills may have occurred. A number

of samples will also be collected off-site to determine background amounts of contaminants in soils. These samples will also



Scientists will take soil core samples from the fog chamber to study soil composition at different depths.

show whether wind has moved metals and polychlorinated biphenyls from Ross to downwind locations.

Exploratory Trenching and Sampling

Backhoes and other earth moving equipment will expose and sample portions of the hazardous waste disposed at the Fog Chamber Dump.

Exploratory Drilling and Sampling

Numerous samples of subsurface soils will be obtained by borehole drilling. These samples will define the level and extent of contamination in areas of concern.

Monitoring Well Installation and Sampling

As explained in Fact Sheet Number 3, volatile organic compounds (solvents) have been

detected in some of the ground-water monitoring wells at the Ross Complex. Additional monitoring wells installed at the site will be used to sample the potential migration of these compounds in ground water. The rate and direction of flow in aquifers beneath the site will be determined.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

Samples of water and sediment in Cold Creek and Burnt Bridge Creek will determine whether solvents or contaminants from the site leached into these streams. If contaminants are found, additional samples will be collected downstream to measure their spread.

Air Monitoring

Samples of air downwind of the site will indicate whether any chemicals from Ross are present in the atmosphere in the form of gases or dust. Samples will be taken on dry, windy days to ensure estimates of worst case conditions.

BPA has hired an environmental consulting firm, Dames and Moore of Seattle, to perform the work at the Ross Complex site. For personal safety, please do not approach the drill rigs and excavation equipment that you may see at the site.

If you have questions about work being performed or if you want additional information, please call John Straub, Ross Facility Manager, at (206) 690-2070. You may also contact BPA's public involvement office in Portland at (503) 230-3478 in Portland; toll free (800) 452-8429 for Oregon outside of Portland; (800) 547-6048 for Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and California.